



PRESS RELEASE

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First-of-a-kind Agreement

Navy Lakehurst and Ocean County Vo-Tech School sign lease to use base facilities

August 28, 2003: LAKEHURST, NJ – The Navy and the Ocean County Vocational Technical School (OCVTS) have entered into a new 20-year lease agreement that will enable the school to utilize several facilities at Lakehurst Naval Air Engineering Station. OCVTS will have use of various buildings at Lakehurst and will be responsible for alterations, repairs and improvements to the Navy property.

According to CAPT Mark Bathrick, the Lakehurst Base Commander, “this lease is the first of its kind between a non-federal agency and a Naval Base in the Northeast Region.” It was signed with the Engineering Field Activity, Northeast (EFANE), part of the Naval Facilities Engineering Command in Lester, PA. “Our close relationship with the real estate professionals at EFANE is key to our ability to enter into these type of groundbreaking joint and interagency agreements,” said Bathrick. “These agreements enhance the mission effectiveness and efficiency of both the base and associate organizations like OCVTS. We believe this innovative method of infrastructure cost reduction and sharing serves as a model for the future for the Department of Defense’s approach to installation management.”

OCVTS has been operating a Career and Technical Institute at Lakehurst since 1994, but not under a formal lease agreement. The school has a Culinary Arts Program, Nursing Program and Technology Center at the Lakehurst naval base. OCVTS is an accredited secondary and post secondary public training institution that supports the local community as well as the Navy personnel at the station.

Having elements of the OCVTS system at Lakehurst has many benefits for both parties. The Navy enjoys enhanced training opportunities for its people, such as the Navy Mess Management Specialists who can improve their skills through the school's culinary arts program. Also, the Navy and OCVTS have a unique partnership that provides the students of the OCVTS Advanced Machining Course with an enhanced educational experience, while providing the Navy with a ready source of artisan machinists for the important and exacting prototyping and manufacturing work conducted at Lakehurst. The partnership provides OCVTS with access to Navy artisans who are hired to serve as instructors for this night course. The Navy permits the students, under the watchful eye of these artisans, to operate some of the Navy's state-of-the-art equipment. The arrangement allows the Navy an opportunity to train future artisans who it can then hire to replace those who are retiring, thus providing a ready solution to a part of the aging workforce dilemma facing the federal workforce. In another partnership, OCVTS Nursing Program students have the opportunity to work with Lakehurst's Navy medical clinic personnel in collecting health histories and taking primary assessments, thereby benefiting both the students and the clinic.

According to Teresa Yannone from the Business Development Office at Lakehurst, "This groundbreaking agreement creates a WIN-WIN situation for everyone. It benefits the residents of Ocean County and the service members, along with their families living in the area. Also, the Navy has the opportunity to reduce its overall costs of operating and maintaining the station by sharing expenses with some of the numerous tenants whose operations are compatible with our important Navy mission."

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